Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 18 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 10 June 2015

[*on the recommendation of the Statistical Commission (E/2015/24)*]

2015/10. 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2005/13 of 22 July 2005, in which it requested the Secretary-General to implement the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme and urged Member States to carry out population and housing censuses at least once during the period from 2005 to 2014, as well as its earlier resolutions endorsing previous decennial programmes,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by Member States to carry out population and housing censuses as part of the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme and the activities of the United Nations and other agencies in support of national efforts in that regard,

Noting efforts made by countries in the 2010 census round to reduce costs and improve the quality and timeliness of census operations and the wide dissemination of their census results through the use of new methodologies and contemporary technologies in the different phases of the census operation,

Recognizing the increasing importance of integrating the population and housing censuses with other types of censuses, civil registration and vital statistics and other statistical activities, such as the census of agriculture, census of establishments and administrative data sets,

Recognizing also the increasing importance of the 2020 round of population and housing censuses for meeting the data needs of the follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, the Millennium Summit, held in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, and to other regional and national meetings,

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Stressing that population and housing censuses for a country as a whole and for each administrative area therein are one of the primary sources of data needed for formulating, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of policies and programmes aimed at inclusive socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability,

Stressing also that population and housing censuses are designed to generate valuable statistics and indicators for assessing the situation of various special population groups, such as women, children, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and stateless persons, and changes therein,

1. *Endorses* the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, which comprises a number of activities aimed at ensuring that Member States conduct a population and housing census during the period from 2015 to 2024;

2. *Urges* Member States to conduct at least one population and housing census under the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, taking into account international and regional recommendations relating to population and housing censuses and giving particular attention to advance planning, cost efficiency, coverage and the timely dissemination of, and easy access to, census results for national stakeholders, the United Nations and other appropriate intergovernmental organizations in order to inform decisions and facilitate the effective implementation of development plans and programmes;

3. *Underscores* the need for countries to set quality standards for the conduct and evaluation of population and housing censuses in order to uphold the integrity, reliability, accuracy and value of the population and housing census results, taking into full account the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;[1]

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme for sustainable development planning, especially in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and calls for full-fledged support for the Programme;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare international statistical standards, methods and guidelines to facilitate activities for the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, to ensure coordination of activities among stakeholders in assisting Member States in the implementation of the Programme, and to monitor and regularly report to the Statistical Commission on the implementation of the Programme.

35th plenary meeting
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[1] General Assembly resolution 68/261.